

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5287

Brief Description: Concerning a study on the recycling of wind turbine blades.

Sponsors: Senators Wilson, J., Nguyen, Hasegawa, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles, Schoesler and Wellman.

Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology
House Committee on Environment & Energy

Background: According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, wind power is the second-largest contributor to Washington's renewable electricity generation. As of 2021, the state had almost 3400 megawatts of wind-powered capacity. The state's largest wind farm, which came online in 2012, is along the Snake River in southeastern Washington and has a capacity of about 343 megawatts.

Wind turbine blades have an expected 20-year lifespan and are typically made of steel, plastic, and fiberglass materials. They vary in size, but a typical modern land-based wind turbine has blades over 170 feet.

Summary: The Washington State University Extension Energy Program must conduct a study on the feasibility of recycling wind turbine blades installed in facilities in Washington that generate electricity for customers in Washington.

The study must include information and recommendations on:

- the cost, feasibility, and environmental impact of various disposal methods for wind turbine blades including, but not limited to, options for reuse, repurposing, and recycling;
- the availability of wind turbine blade recycling and processing facilities in Washington and other states;
- potential incentives for the creation of wind turbine blade recycling facilities in Washington;
- various mechanisms for establishing recycling requirements, or recycled content standards, for wind turbine blades;
- considerations and options for the design of a state-managed product stewardship program; and

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- the feasibility of including all wind turbine blades installed in Washington in a recycling program, including blades that are currently installed.

A report of findings must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2023.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	48	0	
House	97	0	(House amended)
Senate	47	0	(Senate concurred)

Effective: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.